

Appl. No. 10/604,495
Response Dated April 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated December 21, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows without prejudice. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

1. (Currently Amended) A downhole tool for reducing debris in a perforation in a wellbore, the perforation extending from the wellbore into a subterranean formation, the tool comprising:

a housing positionable in the wellbore; and

an arm in the housing and extendable therefrom, wherein the arm comprises a flexible shaft;

and

at least one debris blocker in the housing, the at least one debris blocker positionable in the perforation via the arm and releasable therein such that when released and positioned in the perforation, the at least one debris blocker prevents debris from flowing through the perforation and into the housing with a formation fluid whereby the contamination in the formation fluid is reduced.
2. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 1 wherein the downhole tool further comprises a perforator adapted to create the perforation.
3. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the perforator is a punching tool.
4. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the perforator is a drilling tool.
5. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the perforator has a bit positionable in the perforation and operable between a stationary and an activated mode, wherein in the

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stationary mode the bit permits the flow of fluid past the outer surface of the bit while preventing the flow of debris, and wherein in the activated mode the bit is movable to dislodging debris in the perforation.

6. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 5 wherein in the activated mode the bit is movable by one of rotation, advancement, retraction and combinations thereof.

7. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the at least one debris blocker is at least one filter.

8. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 7 wherein the perforator is capable of creating a perforation through the filter.

9. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 1 wherein the at least one debris blocker comprises at least one plug for sealing the perforation.

10. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 1 wherein the at least one debris blocker comprises at least one filter.

11. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 10 wherein the at least one filter comprises a plurality of filters stacked concentrically in the perforation.

12. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 10 wherein the at least one filter comprises a plurality of filters stacked linearly in the perforation.

13. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 10 wherein the at least one filter has a body, at least a portion of the body comprising mesh.

14. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 13 wherein the at least one filter has a lip, the lip having a diameter greater than the diameter of the body.

15. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 13 wherein the body is cylindrical.

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16. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 13 wherein the body is frusto-conical.
17. (original) The downhole tool of claim 1, wherein the wellbore is an openhole wellbore.
18. (original) The downhole tool of claim 1, wherein the wellbore is a cased wellbore.
19. (original) The downhole tool of claim 1, further comprising a seal capable of sealing the housing about the perforation to isolate the formation fluid from contaminants in the wellbore.
20. (previously presented) The downhole tool of claim 1 wherein the at least one debris blocker comprises a bit and wherein the bit is adapted to create the perforation.
21. (previously presented) The downhole tool of claim 20 wherein the bit is positionable in the perforation and operable between a stationary and an activated mode, wherein in the stationary mode the bit permits the flow of fluid past the outer surface of the bit while preventing the flow of debris, and wherein in the activated mode the bit is movable to dislodging debris in the perforation.
22. (withdrawn) The downhole tool of claim 1 further comprising a magazine for storing the at least one debris blocker within the housing.
23. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing debris in a perforation in a wellbore, the perforation extending from the wellbore into a subterranean formation, comprising:

positioning a downhole tool in the wellbore, the downhole tool having a bit extendable therefrom;

using a flexible shaft to position[[ing]] and release the bit in the perforation to block debris as

formation fluid flows from the perforation into the downhole tool whereby contamination is reduced in the formation fluid collected in the downhole tool.

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24. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising creating a perforation in the sidewall of the wellbore.

25. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising detecting debris in the perforation.

26. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising activating the bit to dislodge debris from the perforation.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of activating comprises one of rotating the bit, advancing the bit, retracting the bit, and combinations thereof.

28. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising plugging the perforation.

29. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising positioning at least one filter in the perforation.

30. (original) The method of claim 29 further comprising advancing the bit through the filter.

31. (original) The method of claim 29 further comprising stacking filters in the perforation.

32. (original) The method of claim 31 wherein the filters are stacked concentrically.

33. (original) The method of claim 31 wherein the filters are stacked linearly.

34. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the wellbore is a cased wellbore.

35. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the wellbore is an open wellbore.

36. (withdrawn) A method for reducing debris in a perforation in a wellbore, the perforation extending from a wellbore into a subterranean formation, comprising:

positioning a downhole tool in the wellbore, the downhole tool having at least one filter therein;

deploying the at least one filter from the downhole tool and into the perforation whereby debris is prevented from passing from the perforation into the downhole tool.

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37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 wherein the drilling tool further comprises a perforator and wherein the method further comprises creating a perforation in the sidewall of the wellbore.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 further comprising detecting debris in the perforation.

39. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 further comprising perforating through the filter.

40. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the perforator has a bit, the method further comprising activating the bit to dislodge debris from the perforation.

41. (withdrawn) The method of claim 40 wherein the step of activating comprises one of rotating the bit, advancing the bit, retracting the bit, and combinations thereof.

42. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 further comprising plugging the perforation.

43. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 wherein a plurality of filters are deployed from the downhole tool and into the wellbore, the filters stacked in the perforation.

44. (withdrawn) The method of claim 43 wherein the filters are stacked concentrically.

45. (withdrawn) The method of claim 43 wherein the filters are stacked linearly.

46. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 wherein the wellbore is a cased wellbore.

47. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 wherein the wellbore is an open wellbore.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising sampling formation fluid via the perforation.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising testing the formation via the perforation.

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50. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 further comprising sampling formation fluid via the perforation.

51. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 further comprising testing the formation via the perforation.

52. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing debris in a perforation in a wellbore, the perforation extending from the wellbore into a subterranean formations, comprising:

positioning a downhole tool in the wellbore, the downhole tool having an arm extendable therefrom;

using a flexible shaft to position[[ing]] and release at least one debris blocker in the perforation via the arm, the debris blocker-preventing debris from flowing into the downhole tool as formation fluid flows through the perforation into the downhole tool.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the at least one debris blocker comprises a bit adapted to selectively move within the perforation to clear debris.

54. (withdrawn) The method of claim 52 wherein the at least one debris blocker comprises at least one filter positionable in the perforation.

55. (previously presented) The method of claim 52 further comprising testing the formation fluid.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 52 further comprising collecting samples of the formation fluid.